

# Updated Solid Waste Policy

Presentation to the Environmental Advisory Council

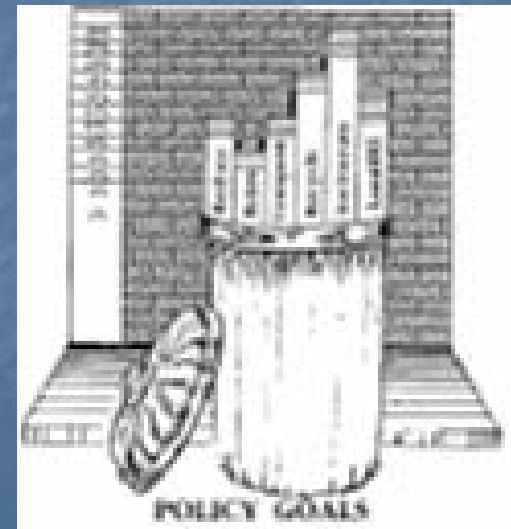
May 18, 2006



# Michigan's Solid Waste Policy



- Present Solid Waste Policy was adopted by Michigan Natural Resources Commission on May 26, 1988
- Issued by Governor
- Stakeholder participation



# Why are we updating the Policy?

- The 1988 Policy is old and outdated.
- The current Policy contains priorities that are inconsistent with the realities of solid waste disposal today because of changes to the solid waste management industry, laws, and technology.
- Two reports in 2005, on recycling and solid waste planning, identified the need to update the policy.
- An updated Policy will guide counties as they develop county Solid Waste Management Plans.

# Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee

To provide a long-term vision for waste management in Michigan, the Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee has played a key role in updating the Solid Waste Policy by:

- Identifying issues that the Policy should address
- Drafting policy statements



# Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee Participants

- Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA)
- Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC)
- Clinton County
- Michigan Recycling Partnership (MRP)
- Michigan Townships Association (MTA)
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)
- Michigan Waste Industries Association (MWIA)
- Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG)
- Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG)
- Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC)
- Resource Recycling Systems, Inc. (RRS)
- Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM)
- Sustainable Research Group
- Butzel Long
- Delta Solid Waste Management Authority
- Upper Peninsula Recycling Coalition (UPRC)
- Department of Public Works Kent County

## DEQ Staff:

- DEQ-Environmental Science and Services Division (ESSD)
- DEQ-Executive Division (ED)
- DEQ-Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHMD)

## Observer:

- Legislative Service Bureau (LSB)

# Policy Development Process

- Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee (SWPAC) met on February 1, 10, and 24; March 10 and 24; April 7 and 21; and May 5.
- The first meetings consisted of brainstorming sessions to identify and group issues that should be addressed in the Updated Policy.
- The SWPAC brainstormed Policy Statements and charged the DEQ with developing Policies from their draft statements.
- The DEQ checked assumptions and asked questions to identify areas of agreement among the SWPAC.
- The SWPAC requested that the DEQ draft detailed policy statements and return to the SWPAC for modification and approval.

# Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Notes and Documents

- [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq), click on “Boards and Advisory Groups” and then “Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee”

# Michigan Solid Waste Policy

DRAFT May 9, 2006

**Michigan recognizes solid waste as a resource that should be managed to promote economic vitality, ecological integrity and improved quality of life in a way that fosters sustainability.**



- A. Michigan's preference is first to avoid waste generation, then, through reuse and recycling, to utilize generated waste for beneficial purposes and, finally, to properly dispose of what remains. Michigan will facilitate the selection of waste management options according to this preference.
- B. Michigan will make solid waste management decisions recognizing the interrelationship among global, national, and regional systems of resource use and disposal.
- C. Michigan recognizes the distinct roles and responsibilities of public institutions (including various levels of government), the private sector, and individuals in encouraging and making choices related to solid waste management.
- D. Michigan recognizes that solid waste management choices have short- and long-term economic, environmental, and social costs and benefits.

## **Decreasing waste generation and increasing waste utilization.**

**To reduce waste generation, Michigan should:**

1. Provide incentives for and remove barriers to pollution prevention practices that reduce waste generation.
2. Collaborate in regional and national efforts to encourage product design to produce less waste.
3. Encourage R&D to share and commercialize technologies and practices that generate less waste.
4. Provide information to citizens, businesses, governments, and other organizations on why and how to reduce waste generation.

## **Decreasing waste generation and increasing waste utilization. (continued)**

**To encourage more waste utilization Michigan should:**

1. Utilize 50 percent of its waste stream by 2015.
2. Identify and remedy regulatory barriers to waste utilization.
3. Ensure all Michigan citizens have convenient access to residential recycling programs by 2012.
4. Collaborate in regional and national efforts to encourage manufacturing and distribution systems to facilitate waste utilization.
5. Support the development of markets for recycled materials.
6. Provide information and technical assistance to citizens, businesses, governments, and other organizations on why and how to utilize waste.
7. Have a state government that leads by example.
8. Support the beneficial reuse of utility, commercial, and industrial by-products.
9. Facilitate and expand opportunities for collection and disposal of household hazardous wastes, C&D wastes, organics, and other special wastes.

# Ensuring appropriate capacity to utilize and dispose of Michigan waste.

**To provide appropriate capacity to utilize solid waste, Michigan should:**

1. Use partnerships to utilize the individual strengths of the public and private sectors.
2. Identify and remedy regulatory inconsistencies and barriers to the development of waste utilization infrastructure.
3. Identify local and statewide deficiencies in waste utilization capacity and promote the development of infrastructure and Michigan markets to meet those needs.
4. Use the solid waste management planning process to establish criteria for evaluating waste utilization needs and establishing the necessary infrastructure.
5. Take advantage of the economic opportunities that come from viewing waste as a resource in a global economy.
6. Encourage coordinated actions by groups of communities or industries in researching, developing, and sharing technologies in order to take advantage of economies of scale and utilize their unique contributions.
7. Explore opportunities through Solid Waste Management Plans to allow for utilization capacity in lieu of mandatory disposal capacity siting.



## **Ensuring appropriate capacity to utilize and dispose of Michigan waste. (continued)**

**To ensure appropriate disposal capacity, Michigan should:**

1. Develop mechanism(s) through the solid waste planning process to ensure adequate and accessible, yet not excessive, disposal capacity to meet Michigan's needs without creating a system that attracts out-of-state waste.
2. Encourage the continual development of technology and practices that reduce the potential for environmental harm from waste disposal.

## **Improving solid waste management capability within a global economy.**

**To improve its ability to manage solid waste, Michigan should:**

1. Advocate for greater authority to manage the transboundary movement of waste.
2. Encourage other jurisdictions to provide appropriate solid waste management options to meet their needs.

# **Appropriately using regulatory requirements, education, and financial incentives to encourage choices consistent with the management preferences.**

**To encourage choices consistent with the management preferences, Michigan should:**

1. Facilitate access to accurate and easy-to-use information about the consequences of alternative choices.
2. Develop and promote incentive systems to increase participation in waste utilization programs.
3. Consider a disposal ban for a material that presents significant and avoidable harm if there are acceptable alternatives such that the ban would not result in an unacceptable increase in illegal disposal.
4. Consider a disposal ban for large volume, easily recycled material that has high resource potential provided there is a well developed market and collection infrastructure.

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5. Consider a deposit system or equivalent for a high risk or large volume product only if it would create an efficient, effective, and equitable collection and utilization infrastructure.
6. Facilitate waste utilization in recreational and other public settings.
7. Prohibit within an implementable time frame the burning and burying of household refuse.
8. Consider a product ban if Michigan cannot effectively prevent significant threats to public health and the environment associated with its management as a solid waste.
9. Expand and improve information and education programs by:
  - a. Developing and making available a statewide message on waste utilization that can be appropriately tailored and presented for different audiences.
  - b. Including information on the economic development potential of waste utilization.
  - c. Using a variety of tools and media.
  - d. Developing a means to evaluate effectiveness.
  - e. Addressing key audiences such as local decision-makers, industry, retailer, residents, and students.
  - f. Supporting coordinated and collaborative efforts at the local level.



**Ensuring that the roles of individual units of government are clearly defined and adequately funded, and their actions are consistent with one another.**

**To ensure the roles of individual units of government are clearly defined Michigan should:**

1. Identify the tasks and duties necessary to sustain a comprehensive solid waste management strategy.

## 2. Assign roles for the development and implementation of Solid Waste Management Plans according to the following principles:

The State undertakes actions that cannot be handled at the local level.

- Ensure statewide standards are met
- Ensure accountability
- Set goals and minimum criteria
- Facilitate information sharing among local units of government
- Provide tools
- Facilitate solutions to conflicting roles
- Ensure that the format, criteria, and guidance for developing solid waste management plans are flexible and consider the needs and resources of individual planning areas

The local (regional, county, and municipal) units of government are primarily responsible for the delivery of services to citizens.

- Determine how best to select from among available alternatives
- How best to collaborate with other entities (public/private)
- Enforce and administer county Solid Waste Management Plans and related solid waste programs
- Ensure appropriate disposal and utilization capacity through the solid waste management planning process

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**To ensure that various units of government are equitably able to financially fulfill their responsibilities, Michigan should:**

1. Identify and implement a sustainable and equitable funding mechanism(s) to provide for a minimum level of solid waste management activities identified by the state.
2. Develop and encourage the use of effective local funding mechanisms.
3. Encourage development of financial and other incentives to promote collaboration.

## **Regulating solid waste activities.**

**To ensure solid waste policies and laws minimize unintended consequences and are predictable enough to encourage decisions consistent with the preferences yet flexible enough to provide for individual and changing circumstances, Michigan should:**

1. Implement and maintain a system that provides for input from all affected parties in the development of, revisions to, and administration of, policies, laws, and regulations. This system should utilize necessary and available data and information regarding economic vitality, ecological integrity, and quality of life consistent with this policy.
2. Establish a standing Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee to oversee implementation of this Solid Waste Policy.



# Developing and implementing an effective system to communicate, monitor, evaluate, and modify the Solid Waste Policy and its implementation.

**To identify deficiencies in solid waste management as well as evaluate progress toward achieving solid waste management goals, Michigan should:**

1. Develop and implement an effective and efficient data collection system for solid waste disposal and utilization. The system should:
  - Consist of data collected locally and aggregated statewide.
  - Analyze and evaluate data to benchmark achievement of sustainability standards.
  - Characterize waste streams at time of disposal.
  - Protect proprietary information.
  - Avoid double-counting.
  - Be consistent with national programs and standards.
2. Evaluate the implementation of this Solid Waste Policy every five years and recommend appropriate changes through a report prepared by the Director. The report should be based upon the work of the Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee with input from other interested parties.

**Please direct comments and questions to:**

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